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Power Flow Analysis for Low-Voltage AC and DC Microgrids Considering Droop Control and Virtual Impedance

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Abstract— In the Low-Voltage (LV) AC microgrids (MGs), with a relatively high R/X ratio, virtual impedance is usually adopted to improve the performance of droop control applied to Distributed Generators (DGs). At the same time, LV DC microgrid using virtual impedance as droop control is emerging without adequate power flow studies. In this paper, power flow analyses for both AC and DC microgrids are formulated and implemented. The mathematical models for both types of microgrids considering the concept of virtual impedance are used to be in conformity with the practical control of the distributed generators. As a result, calculation accuracy is improved for both AC and DC microgrid power flow analyses, comparing with previous methods without considering virtual impedance. Case studies are conducted to verify the proposed power flow analyses in terms of convergence and accuracy. Investigation of the impact to the system of internal control parameters adopted by distributed generators is also conducted by using proposed method.

Index Terms—AC/DC microgrids, Low-Voltage, droop control, virtual impedance, power flow

NOMENCLATURE

DG	Distributed generation
PE	Power Electronics
f	Output voltage frequency of DG units
f_{0i}	Nominal frequency of DG unit i
K_{Pi}	Proportional frequency droop parameter in DG unit i
$P_{Gi} / P_{Gi(DC)}$	Real power generation of dispatchable DG unit i
$V_{Gi} / V_{Gi(DC)}$	Output voltage of dispatchable DG unit i
$V_{G0i} / V_{G0i(DC)}$	Nominal voltage of DG unit i
K_{Qi}	Proportional amplitude droop parameter of DG unit i
Q_{Gi}	Reactive power of the dispatchable DG unit i
P_{0i}	Rated real power of load i
Q_{0i}	Rated reactive power of load i
α_i	Exponent coefficient of real power
β_i	Exponent coefficient of reactive power
Δf	Frequency deviation to nominal frequency
$K_{pf,i}$	Real power frequency dependency

$K_{qf,i}$	Reactive power frequency dependency
$P_{Di} / P_{Di(DC)}$	Real power load at bus i
Q_{Di}	Reactive power load at bus i
$P_i / P_{i(DC)}$	Injected real power at bus i
Q_i	Injected reactive power at bus i
θ_i	Phase angle at bus i
G_{ij}	Conductance of branch ij
B_{ij}	Susceptance of branch ij
$V_i / V_{i(DC)}$	Bus voltage of bus i
$V_{droop,i}$	Voltage of the virtual droop bus i
Z_{vi}	Virtual impedance
$I_i / I_{i(DC)}$	Injected current at bus i
$[Y_{ij}]$	Bus admittance matrix of the network
$P_{Gi,spec}$	Specified generation real power at bus i
$Q_{Gi,spec}$	Specified generation reactive power at bus i
N_g	Number of dispatchable DG buses
N_{pq}	Number of PQ buses
R_{line_ij}	Line resistance for line ij
L_{line_ij}	Line inductance for line ij
Z_{line_ij}	Line impedance for line ij
ϕ	Impedance angle of line $l2$
$R_{vi(DC)}$	Virtual resistance in DC microgrid
$N_{g(DC)}$	Number of dispatchable DG buses in DC microgrid
$N_{p(DC)}$	Number of P buses in DC microgrid
$F_x(y)$	Mismatch function x of vector y

I. INTRODUCTION

A microgrid should be able to integrate, control and manage the distributed energy resources, energy storage systems and loads in both grid-connected and islanded modes [1] – [3]. As a basic steady state analysis tool for any electrical network, power flow analysis is essential to get the overall view of the system for the design and operation of microgrids [4]. It can be applied to microgrid network optimization, component capacity optimization in the planning stage of the microgrid. It can also be adopted in network reconfiguration, power control in real time during operation. By applying the power flow analysis in a specific system configuration, power system security analysis, and protection coordination can be

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implemented. Moreover, it can be used in the initialization of the system dynamic analysis, and small signal analysis, etc. Power flow analysis can be embedded as a component in the energy management system of the microgrid.

Conventionally, power flow analysis is modelled by node voltage method [5], using different types of buses—PV, PQ and Vθ buses (or P and V buses in DC system) [6], [7]. However, with the features which are distinct from traditional power systems, conventional methods become no longer suitable for microgrid applications. The limitation of previous power flow formulation for AC microgrids mainly lies in the following items 1) The amount of the power supplied by each DG unit is usually not pre-specified, and thus these DG units cannot simply be modelled as PQ buses; 2) despite more flexible control of power electronic (PE) interfaces for DGs, the limited capacity of a single DG unit makes it impractical to be taken as the slack bus, especially in islanded mode, while in conventional methods at least one slack bus must be assigned to balance the real and reactive power losses; 3) In islanded mode, the frequency of the microgrid is no longer fixed but changes frequently within a range due to uncertainty of primary resources, load and intra-day market factors [8], and this cannot be shown in traditional methods. In addition, the emerging concept of DC microgrid requires more research on power flow analysis to take its special steady state characteristics into account [9].

The problem of tailoring conventional power flow programs for microgrid applications has been recently addressed in [10] – [12]. The study performed in [10] emphasizes modelling the AC system in the sequence-component frame to represent all the control purposes, but it still uses the traditional method in each component frame by assuming the existence of a slack bus. In [11], a two-step power flow analysis approach is proposed so as to represent electronically-coupled DG units, with the feature to calculate the internal variables of each DG unit. However, in most cases, the impact of different internal variables on the system is of more interest but cannot be evaluated by this approach. The method proposed in [12] represents correctly the actual distributed slack buses by modelling the DG units as droop buses. However, the traditional droop control with P-f and Q-V droop is derived from the approximation of power flow equations under the assumption that the output impedance of the converter is inductive. It might not be the case when the transmission line is not inductive, and in this situation traditional droop will not be valid due to the coupling of the active and reactive power [1] [13]. Although some variations of the droop method, such as resistive droop, are proposed to address the resistive output impedance, they cannot be generalized [13] [14]. To make P-f and Q-V droop control valid, virtual impedance loops should be added to local controllers of the converters to provide the desired output impedance and to increase the stability of the system in AC microgrids [15] – [17]. In addition, these studies do not consider the case of DC microgrids. In a DC microgrid, the load sharing mechanism is achieved by droop control through feeding back the output current via a virtual resistance to the voltage loop. Power flow analysis methods which do not consider virtual impedance compromise the accuracy of the power flow results.

In this paper, to solve the aforementioned problems, we take the concept of virtual impedance into consideration for both AC and DC microgrids power flow analyses. This way, the accuracy of the power flow analysis in both systems can be improved. Moreover, the impact of the control parameters of the DG units on the power flow of the microgrid can be analysed, and an overall view of the system state in steady state can be obtained for guiding the system design and operation. This method can be a facilitative tool for the development of microgrid systems, and is able to act as essential sub-function in the microgrid energy management system.

This paper is organized as follows. The background of the virtual impedance concept and mathematical model of power flow analysis for AC microgrids is presented in Section II. The case studies for AC microgrids are provided in Section III. Similar discussions for both problem formulation and case studies for DC microgrid power flow analysis are presented in Section IV and V, respectively. Finally, Section VI concludes the paper.

II. PROBLEM FORMULATION FOR AC MICROGRIDS

A. Virtual impedance in AC microgrids

Decentralized droop scheme is a widely adopted control strategy for sharing the real and reactive load autonomously without communication to other units or to a central controller. The well-known P/Q droop method P-f and Q-V droop integrated in the local control of DG units in an inductive network can be written as [1] – [3], [18] and [19]

$$f = f_{0i} - K_{Pi} P_{Gi} \quad (1)$$

$$|V_{Gi}| = |V_{G0i}| - K_{Qi} Q_{Gi} \quad (2)$$

where f , f_{0i} , K_{Pi} , P_{Gi} , V_{Gi} , V_{G0i} , K_{Qi} , and Q_{Gi} are output frequency, nominal frequency, frequency droop gain, active power, output voltage, nominal voltage, amplitude droop gain, and reactive power of the DG unit i , respectively.

The traditional droop control, as is interpreted as in (1) and (2), assumes that the line impedance is inductive enough to model the DG unit as an ideal voltage source whose voltage and frequency are determined by droop characteristics [1] – [3], [18] and [19]. It is because in this situation the P and Q are almost decoupled. The relationship of the power and the line impedance can be illustrated by using a two bus system with a DG unit in bus 1 and a slack bus in bus 2 as shown in Fig. 1.

Overlooking the power consumption on the line impedance, there are

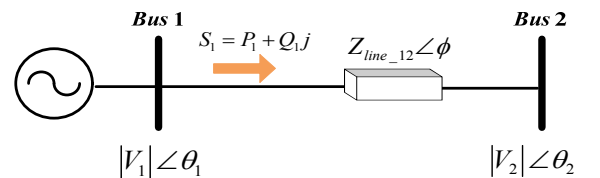


Fig. 1. Equivalent circuit of a distributed generator and a slack bus.

$$P = \frac{V_1 V_2}{Z_{line_12}} \cos(\phi - \theta) - \frac{V_2^2}{Z_{line_12}} \cos \phi \quad (1)$$

$$Q = \frac{V_1 V_2}{Z_{line_12}} \sin(\phi - \theta) - \frac{V_2^2}{Z_{line_12}} \sin \phi \quad (2)$$

where P_1 and Q_1 is the active and reactive power flowing from bus1 to bus 2; Z_{line_12} the impedance of line 12, θ_1 the bus angle in bus 1; and ϕ is the angle of the impedance of line 12.

Consider θ_1 is very small and thus can omitted, only when the line impedance is mainly inductive ($\phi \approx 90^\circ$), can the active power and reactive power be well decoupled. In this case, P and Q have a linear relationship with bus angle and bus voltage amplitude, respectively. This can be written as [13]

$$P = \frac{V_1 V_2}{Z_{line_12}} \sin \theta \quad (3)$$

$$Q = \frac{V_1 V_2 \cos \phi - V_2^2}{Z_{line_12}} \quad (4)$$

This is the condition for the traditional droop to be valid. In practice, according to the typical R/X ratio in Table I, LV network is more resistive [18]. In this case, without using virtual impedance, large, bulky, expensive filter is often placed outside the converter to meet this requirement for traditional droop to be valid. To avoid this, virtual impedance is use to change the output impedance of the converter [15]-[17].

Moreover, the resistive part in the virtual impedance can also improve system small signal stability by increasing the damping of the system [15], [16]. With virtual impedance applied in the control loop, characteristics of the DG units are no longer purely determined by droop equations, and the control scheme of each DG unit has an output current feedback loop via a virtual impedance as shown in Fig. 2.

B. Mathematical model of power flow in AC microgrid

In the mathematic model of the power flow in an AC microgrid, all the nodes in the network can be generalized into two types. One is PQ bus and the other is the bus where the

DG unit with droop control and virtual impedance is connected (here it is called dispatchable DG bus). The PQ buses include not only load but also nodes connected with an non-dispatchable DG unit. Generally, the dispatchable DGs are diesel generators, energy storage systems, while renewable resources like wind and solar assigned as non-dispatchable unit since they are operating in the maximum power point generation mode. In particular, in recent year in North America, solar PV inverters can be curtailed remotely, and their output will be reduced automatically when the system frequency goes up. In these cases, the renewable resources are considered as PQ buses, with their P is dependent on the system frequency. Buses connected with loads in the system naturally belong to the PQ buses, and the characteristics of

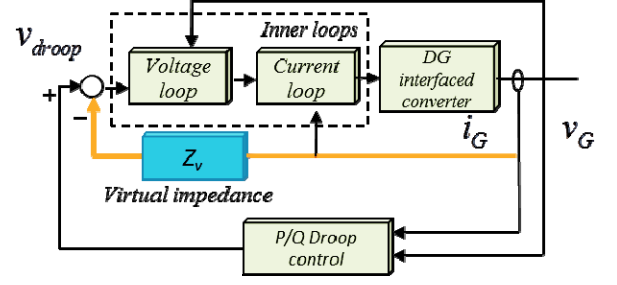


Fig. 2. Control diagram of the droop control in AC microgrids

TABLE I
TYPICAL LINE PARAMETERS [18]

Type of line	R' (Ω/km)	X' (Ω/km)	R'/X'
Low Voltage	0.642	0.083	7.7
Medium Voltage	0.161	0.19	0.85
High Voltage	0.06	0.191	0.31

voltage and frequency dependency of these buses can be modelled as [21]

$$P_{Di} = P_{0i} |V_i|^{\alpha_i} (1 + K_{pf,i} \Delta f) \quad (5)$$

$$Q_{Di} = Q_{0i} |V_i|^{\beta_i} (1 + K_{qf,i} \Delta f) \quad (6)$$

where P_{0i} and Q_{0i} are the rated real and reactive power of the load at the operating points; α_i and β_i are the exponent coefficients of real and reactive power; Δf is the deviation between actual system frequency and the nominal frequency; $K_{pf,i}$ and $K_{qf,i}$ are constants to represent frequency dependency. When the active and reactive power exponents are equal to zeros, ones, and twos, the loads behave as constant power, constant current and constant impedance, respectively. The value of α_i and β_i in typical load conditions can be found in [22]. For typical loads, $K_{pf,i}$ and $K_{qf,i}$ range from 0 to 3.0 and from 2.0 to 0, respectively [21].

The nodes with non-dispatchable DG units can also be modelled as PQ buses; just their real power value should be set as negative. Note that when the generation of a dispatchable DG unit reaches its rating, its control mode will change from dispatchable mode into constant power mode, and thus will form a PQ bus when operating in this mode [23], [24]. The bus type will not change on the fly, instead, the rating limitation check is after the whole power flow calculation process, and if there is certain constraint being violated, we have to recalculate with new bus type assignment for the correspondent buses.

For the PQ bus, the mismatch equations can be written as

$$P_i(\theta_i, |V_i|) + P_{Di}(f, |V_i|) + P_{Gi,spec} = 0 \quad (7)$$

$$Q_i(\theta_i, |V_i|) + Q_{Di}(f, |V_i|) + Q_{Gi,spec} = 0 \quad (8)$$

where P_i and Q_i are the injected power to bus i , which can be calculated as

$$P_i(\theta_i, |V_i|) = V_i \sum_{j=1}^n V_j [G_{ij} \cos(\theta_i - \theta_j) + B_{ij} \sin(\theta_i - \theta_j)] \quad (9)$$

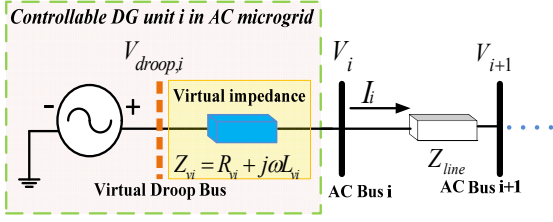


Fig. 3. Virtual impedance control concept in AC microgrids

$$Q_i(\theta_i, |V_i|) = V_i \sum_{j=1}^n V_j [G_{ij} \sin(\theta_i - \theta_j) - B_{ij} \cos(\theta_i - \theta_j)] \quad (10)$$

where θ_i , G_{ij} and B_{ij} are, phase angle in bus i , conductance and susceptance of branch ij , respectively.

For the dispatchable DG units, to get more accurate calculation results, the mathematical model should accurately represent the output characteristics. As mentioned in the previous section, the model should also take virtual impedance into consideration. The relationship between droop control and virtual impedance in a single phase can be illustrated as Fig. 3 for the power flow modelling.

Therefore, in addition to (1) and (2), one more equation should be added for dispatchable DG buses to represent the impact of virtual impedance on the output voltage characteristics. A virtual node is assumed between droop-controlled source and actual terminal of the DG unit, which is called virtual droop bus in this paper. Thus:

$$V_i = V_{Gi} = V_{droop,i} - I_i Z_{vi} \quad (11)$$

where $V_{droop,i}$ is the voltage of the virtual droop bus i , Z_{vi} is the virtual impedance and I_i here represents the current injected to the dispatchable DG bus, which can be obtained from

$$[I_i] = [Y_{ij}] [V_i] \quad (12)$$

where $[Y_{ij}]$ denotes the bus admittance matrix of the network.

For the dispatchable DG bus, the mismatch equations are as follows:

$$P_i(\theta_i, |V_i|) + P_{Di}(f, |V_i|) + P_{Gi}(f) = 0 \quad (13)$$

$$Q_i(\theta_i, |V_i|) + Q_{Di}(f, |V_i|) + Q_{Gi}(|V_i|) = 0 \quad (14)$$

$$f_{0i} - f_{0i} - K_{P_i} P_{Gi}(f) - K_{P_1} P_{G1}(f) = 0 \quad (15)$$

$$|V_{G0i}| - |V_{droop,i}| - K_{Q_i} Q_{Gi}(|V_{droop,i}|) = 0 \quad (16)$$

$$V_i - V_{droop,i} + I_i ([V_i]) Z_{vi} = 0 \quad (17)$$

Combining the model of dispatchable DG buses and that of PQ buses, the mathematical model of the whole system can be obtained as follows:

$$F_{P_i, spec}(\theta_i, |V_i|, f) = P_i(\theta_i, |V_i|) + P_{Di}(f, |V_i|) + P_{Gi, spec} = 0 \quad (18)$$

$$F_{Q_i, spec}(\theta_i, |V_i|, f) = Q_i(\theta_i, |V_i|) + Q_{Di}(f, |V_i|) + Q_{Gi, spec} = 0 \quad (19)$$

$$F_{P_i}(\theta_i, |V_i|, f) = P_i(\theta_i, |V_i|) + P_{Di}(f, |V_i|) + P_{Gi}(f) = 0 \quad (20)$$

$$F_{Q_i}(\theta_i, |V_i|, f) = Q_i(\theta_i, |V_i|) + Q_{Di}(f, |V_i|) + Q_{Gi}(|V_{droop,i}|) = 0 \quad (21)$$

$$F_{f_i}(f) = f_{0i} - f_{0i} - K_{P_i} P_{Gi}(f) - K_{P_1} P_{G1}(f) = 0 \quad (22)$$

$$F_{V_i}(Q_{Gi}, |V_{droop,i}|) = |V_{G0i}| - |V_{droop,i}| - K_{Q_i} Q_{Gi}(|V_{droop,i}|) = 0 \quad (23)$$

$$F_{droop,i}(\theta_i, |V_i|) = V_i - V_{droop,i} + I_i ([V_i]) Z_{vi} = 0 \quad (24)$$

Let N_g be defined as the number of dispatchable DG buses, and N_{pq} the number of PQ buses. Since the frequency of the microgrid f is a global variable, there are $N_g - 1$ mismatch equations for (22), N_g for (23) and $2N_g + 2N_{pq}$ for (18) to (21). As variables in (24) are complex variables, they can be decomposed into $2 \times N_g$ mismatch equations. The total number of mismatch functions is

$$N = 6 \times N_g + 2 \times N_{pq} - 1 \quad (25)$$

The total unknown variables of the model are the voltage amplitude and phase angle of all actual buses and virtual droop buses, real power and reactive power of the dispatchable buses and system frequency. Note that here voltage angle of one of the buses is defined as reference (reference bus angle). Thus, the number of unknown variables is equal to the number of mismatch equations.

To solve the set of nonlinear equations for the AC microgrid power flow derived before, a globally convergent Newton-trust region method is used in this paper, for its superiority in terms of algorithm robustness and global convergence [8], [25]. To demonstrate the importance of virtual impedance more directly, single phase model for balanced system is used in this work. To extend the proposed model into three-phase, without considering any unbalance compensation (the proper value of virtual impedance for this purpose is out the scope of this work), equal virtual impedance to each phase and its corresponding virtual droop bus can be added based on the model used in [12].

III. CASE STUDIES FOR AC MICROGRIDS

A. Algorithm Verification

Firstly, the six-bus system shown in Fig. 4 with the parameters listed in Table II is used to verify the effectiveness of the proposed method [26]. In this network, all these three generator buses are taken as dispatchable buses, all the lines are with resistance to inductance ratio R/X approximately as 7.7 to mimic the typical low voltage lines as in Table I [18].

To show the improvement of the proposed power flow analysis, power flow results from the proposed method are compared with those from several conventional methods by reference to the steady state of time domain simulation using SimPowerSystem. The conventional methods either set one bus as the slack bus or consider only the droop control without virtual impedances. In those two scenarios using traditional method with slack bus, bus 1 is chosen as the slack bus and the loads in bus 2 and bus 3 are set as 0.7 p.u. and 0.1 p.u. in one scenario, and as 0.1 p.u. and 0.7 p.u. in the other. To make the results closer to the reality for the methods using slack bus, we choose the flat voltage of the bus 1 same as that using the method considering only the traditional droop, which is 0.9652. The voltage profile results are shown in Table III. It can be seen that the relative error of magnitude deviation compared with simulation is decreased from 0.2495% to 0.0728% in bus 3 (best case), and from 0.2391% to 0.0832% in bus 5 (worst case) by considering virtual impedance compared with the method considering only droop. The good agreement between the results indicates the accuracy of the proposed power flow analysis in solving the LV microgrid networks with droop controller and virtual impedance.

Comparisons with other conventional methods mentioned above are plotted in Fig. 5. The limitation of the other methods in solving the power flow for the system is indicated by the large deviation from the time-domain simulation results. It is verified again that, the voltage magnitude results obtained from proposed algorithm have the best accuracy compared with all the other conventional methods.

To further demonstrate the performance of the proposed method, Fig. 6 compares the percentage errors of real and reactive power generated by DGs by considering only droop control and the proposed method. The percentage errors are defined as ratio of deviation between calculation and simulation to the simulation results. As can be seen in Fig. 6, percentage errors of reactive power are reduced significantly by using the proposed method, from 6.9% to 3.7% in bus 1, 7.7% to 4.98% in bus 2, 15.28% to 8.21% in bus 3, respectively. It shows that the virtual impedance has more significant influence on the reactive power generation than on real power generation. Although in term of voltage amplitude, the improvement of the accuracy is not so evident compared with the method considering only the droop control, which is due to the small value of the virtual impedance, the improvement of the accuracy for reactive power result is desired for more accurate reactive power planning and control.

B. Control Parameter Analysis

In this section, the proposed power flow is conducted on a 38-bus system. The effects of the control parameters of the dispatchable DG units, i.e., droop gains, virtual impedance and nominal frequency and voltage amplitude, are studied. The single line diagram of the system is shown in Fig. 7. The line impedance data are the same as in [27], and slight modifications have been made on the generation locations to distribute the DG units more uniformly. The detailed line data can be found in Appendix. The initial control parameters of the five dispatchable DG units are shown in Table IV.

Firstly, the effects of the proportional frequency droop gain K_p on system real power sharing are evaluated. In this case study, parameters of K_p in bus 34 and 38 are swapped. Besides proportional frequency droop gain, all the other control parameters remain the same as the initial values as in Table IV. As a result, the real power in bus 34 and 38 are almost swapped as well, as shown in Fig. 8. It indicates that real power of the DG unit in dispatchable buses is precisely proportional to proportional frequency droop gain K_p .

The evaluation of the proportional amplitude droop gain K_Q on system reactive power sharing is also carried out. Likewise, the parameters of K_Q in bus 34 and 37 are also exchanged. However, as is shown in Fig. 9, the values of reactive power in these two buses are not precisely proportional to K_Q as is the case when changing K_p , and the values of reactive power in other DG buses are also influenced.

Secondly, with the proposed method, the effects of the indispensable parameter--virtual impedance on system can now be evaluated. The effects of changing the value of virtual reactance on voltage profile, real and reactive power generation are investigated. In this case study, four scenarios are considered where the value of virtual reactance in bus 35 is increased from 0.0257 p.u. to 0.0495 p.u. in the first

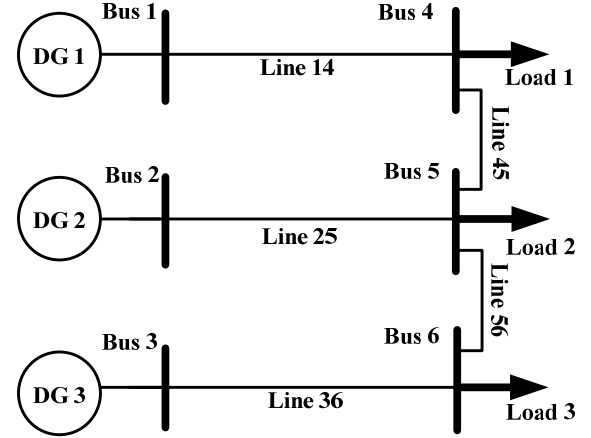


Fig. 4. Single line diagram of the six-bus microgrid

TABLE II
CONTROL PARAMETERS OF DG UNITS IN SIX-BUS AC SYSTEM

Parameters	Symbol	Value	Units
Power stage			
Line resistance for line ij , $(i, j) \in S \times S$	$R_{line\ ij}$	0.15	Ω
Line inductance for line ij , $(i, j) \in S \times S$	$L_{line\ ij}$	0.062	mH
LC filter inductor for DG i , $i=1, 2, 3$	$L_{f\ i}$	1.8	mH
LC filter capacitor for DG i , $i=1, 2, 3$	$C_{f\ i}$	27	μF
Control parameters			
Proportional frequency droop for DG1	K_{p1}	0.001	rad/(W · s)
Proportional amplitude droop for DG1	K_{Q1}	0.02	V/Var
Proportional frequency droop for DG2	K_{p2}	0.0005	rad/(W · s)
Proportional amplitude droop for DG2	K_{Q2}	0.01	V/Var
Proportional frequency droop for DG3	K_{p3}	0.004	rad/(W · s)
Proportional amplitude droop for DG3	K_{Q3}	0.02	V/Var
Virtual resistor for DG i , $(i=1, 2, 3)$	R_{vi}	0.1	Ω
Virtual inductor for DG i , $(i=1, 2, 3)$	L_{vi}	0.004	H
Nominal voltage for DG i , $(i=1, 2, 3)$	V_{oi}	230	V
Nominal frequency for DG i , $(i=1, 2, 3)$	f_{oi}	50	Hz
Load parameters			
Bus number	R_{load}	L_{load}	
4	90 Ω	0.0609H	
5	110 Ω	0.0836H	
6	100 Ω	0.25136H	

$S=\{1,2,\dots,6\}$

TABLE III
VALIDATION RESULTS OF THE SIX-BUS AC MICROGRID

#	SimPowerSystem Results		Power Flow Results		Relative Error ¹	Relative Error ²
	Mag.(p.u.)	Ang.(degree)	Mag.(p.u.)	Ang.(degree)	Pct. (%)	Pct. (%)
1	0.9629	0.0000	0.9622	0.0000	0.0727	0.2492
2	0.9645	0.0159	0.9638	0.0172	0.0726	0.2385
3	0.9624	0.0502	0.9617	0.0516	0.0727	0.2494
4	0.9618	0.0048	0.9611	0.0057	0.0728	0.2495
5	0.9623	0.0208	0.9616	0.0229	0.0727	0.2390
6	0.9619	0.0531	0.9611	0.0516	0.0832	0.2391

¹ Ratio of magnitude deviation between calculation results and simulation results to the simulation results considering virtual impedance; ² Ratio of magnitude deviation between calculation results and simulation results to the simulation results without considering virtual impedance

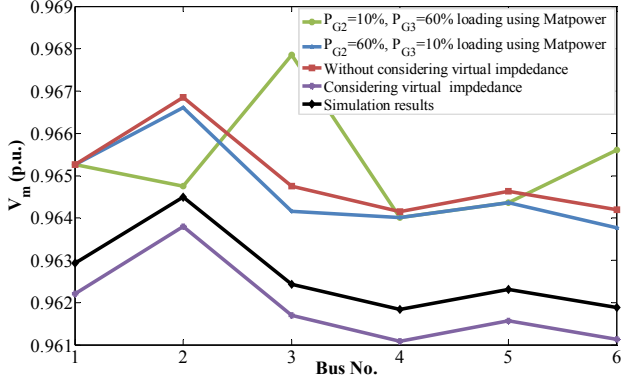


Fig. 5. Comparison of voltage profiles of the six-bus AC system using different methods

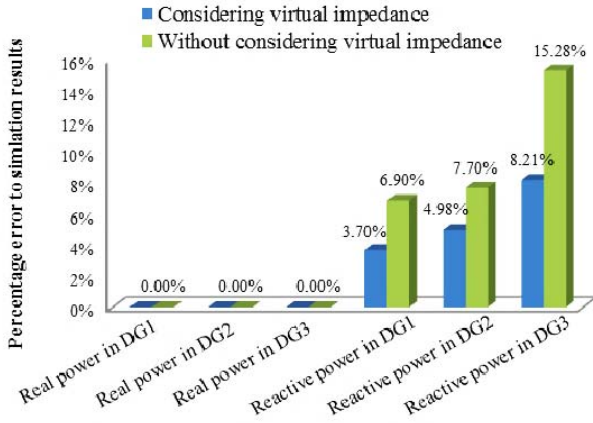


Fig. 6. Comparison of Percentage Error of DG Power with and without considering virtual impedance

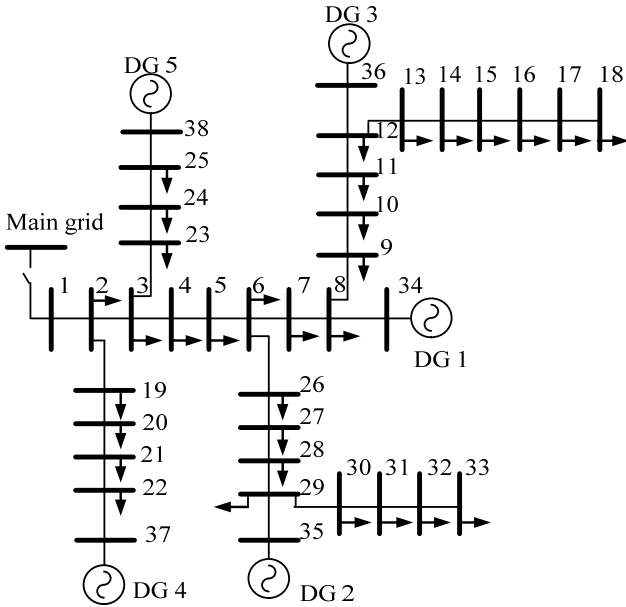


Fig. 7. The topology of 38-bus AC system

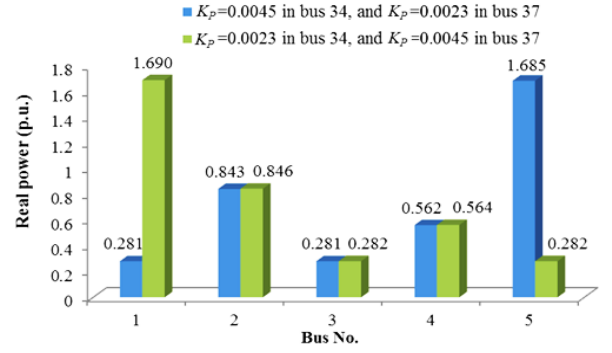


Fig. 8. Effects of K_P on generated real power in dispatchable buses

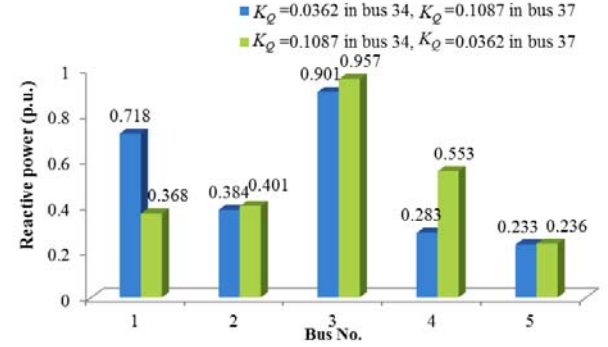


Fig. 9. Effects of K_Q on generated reactive power in dispatchable buses

DG #	Bus #	K_P (p.u.)	K_Q (p.u.)	f_0 (p.u.)	V_{G0} (p.u.)	R_v (p.u.)	X_v (p.u.)
1	34	0.0045	0.0362	0.9777	1.03	0.0032	0.0297
2	35	0.0015	0.0725	0.9792	1.03	0.0032	0.0297
3	36	0.0023	0.0217	0.9770	1.03	0.0032	0.0297
4	37	0.0023	0.1087	0.9766	1.03	0.0032	0.0297
5	38	0.0008	0.0217	0.9769	1.03	0.0032	0.0297

three scenarios, and that in bus 45 increased to 0.0495 p.u. in the fourth. The range of virtual resistance chosen is relatively small, since larger value will lead the system to instability. The calculation results are shown in Fig. 10, the following observation can be made: 1) the voltage amplitude can be reduced as virtual reactance increases, which is shown in Fig. 10 (a); 2) the reactive power generation will be reduced when virtual impedance increases as in Fig. 10 (b); 3) changing of the virtual reactance has little influence on real power generation, which is shown in Fig. 10 (c).

Finally, to observe how nominal values affect the power flow of the system, scenarios of changing the values of nominal frequency and nominal voltage amplitude are investigated. Fig. 11 demonstrates the change of the real power generations when changing the nominal frequency in bus 34 from 1 p.u. to 1.004 p.u., and that in bus 36 from 1 p.u. to 1.002 p.u., respectively. The values of steady state system frequency for these four scenarios are 0.9987, 0.9989, 0.9991 and 1.0009 in per unit value, respectively. It shows that 1) the real power generation in the corresponding DG bus will increase as the nominal frequency increases; 2) the increased nominal frequency can raise the system frequency.

The influence of the nominal voltage amplitude toward the

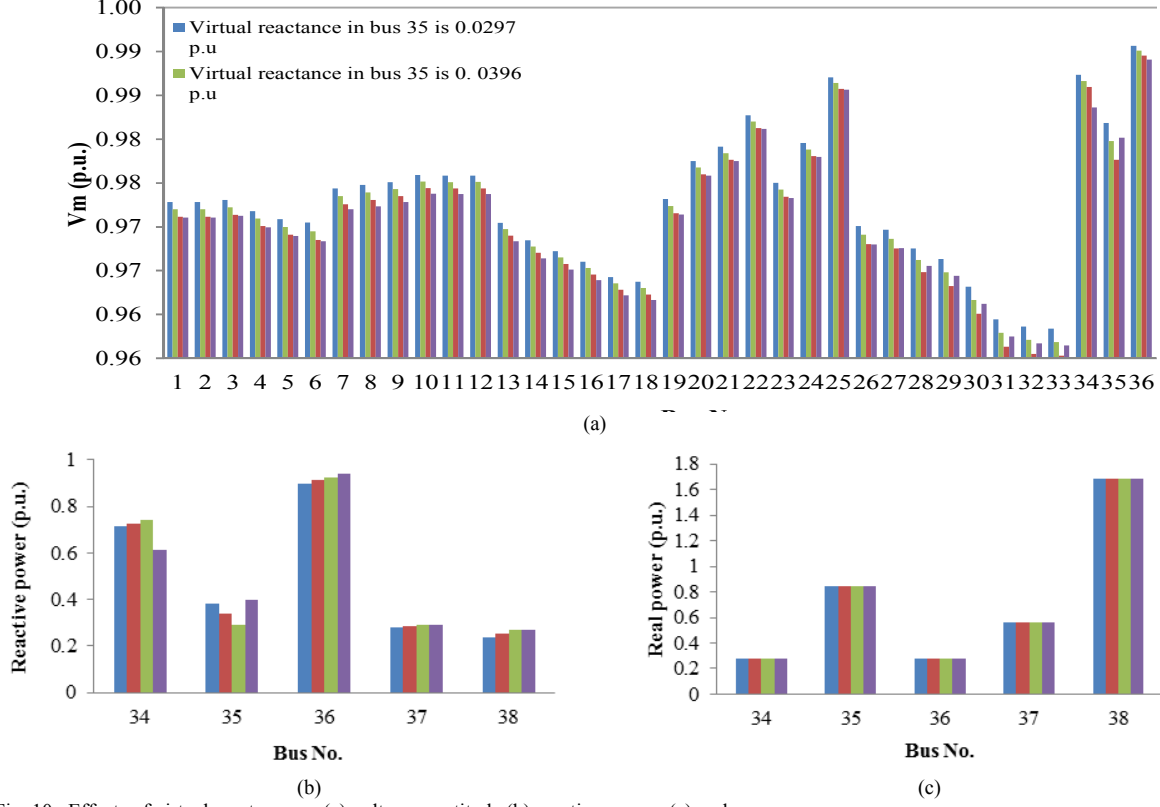


Fig. 10. Effects of virtual reactance on (a) voltage amplitude (b) reactive power (c) real power

reactive power and system voltage profile is similar with that of the frequency towards real power and system frequency. The influence of the nominal voltage amplitude towards voltage profile is shown in Fig. 12, where the nominal voltage amplitude values of all the dispatchable buses are increased from 1.01 p.u. to 1.05 p.u. The system voltage profile will be raised with higher nominal voltage amplitude.

C. Convergence Characteristics

The convergence characteristic of the proposed method is studied for both the system with 6 buses and the one with 38 buses. Performance comparison is also made with the method using the same solver yet without considering the virtual impedance. The models of these two different of power flow analyses are solved on a 64 bit workstation with 4 processors clocking at 2.6 GHz and with 8GB RAM. The execution performance is compared as shown in the Table V.

As the network becomes larger, the iteration number is increased. One of the merit of the proposed method can be seen from the comparison is that, with improved accuracy, the computation overhead of the proposed method is only increased by less than 33.85% compared with the method considering only droop control.

TABLE V
COMPARISON OF CONVERGENCE CHARACTERISTICS

Execution Performance	Six-bus system (p.u.)		38-bus system (p.u.)	
	A	B	A	B
CPU time	1	1.3385	1	1.26
Iteration number	3	4	5	6

A=method considering only droop, B=proposed method

IV. PROBLEM FORMULATION FOR DC MICROGRIDS

A. Virtual impedance in DC microgrid

Traditionally, to manage the power flow of the DC microgrid, centralized control strategies, such as master-slave control and average current control method are adopted in dispatchable DG units [1]. To make the DG units share the load automatically, similar to AC microgrids, decentralized method is implemented by having a droop mechanism. Different to AC microgrids, this droop control algorithm is not directly based on generated power but realized by feeding back the output current through a virtual resistance [1], [28] [29]. The control diagram of the droop control for each dispatchable DG unit is illustrated as in Fig. 13. The concepts of the virtual impedance are different in AC and DC

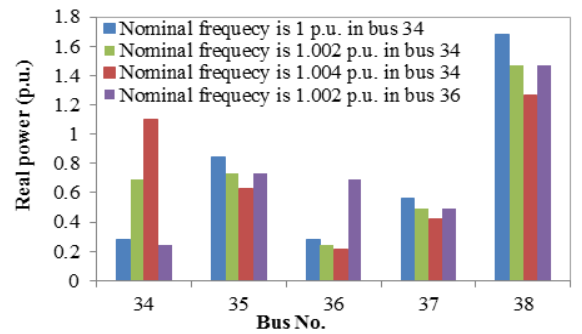


Fig. 11. Effects of nominal frequency on real power generation

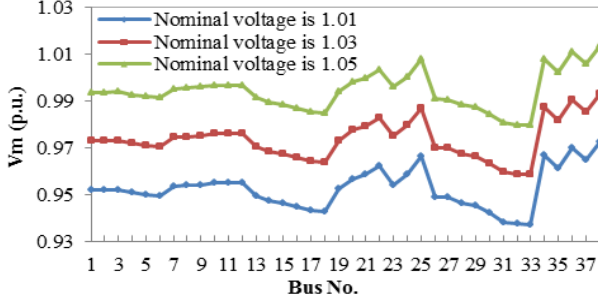


Fig. 12. Effects of nominal voltage on voltage profile

microgrid. In the AC microgrids, the virtual impedance is adopted to change the output impedance of the converter to cancel out the effect of coupling of active and reactive power; while for DC microgrids, the virtual impedance is employed directly for power sharing, which is the droop control for the DC microgrid.

B. Mathematical model of power flow in DC microgrids

In DC microgrid modelling, two types of buses can be defined. All the load and non-dispatchable DG units can be categorized as P buses, and all the dispatchable DG units can be represented by the dispatchable DG buses, which are all assumed to work in droop mode during normal operation.

For the dispatchable DG bus, the concept of droop control using virtual resistance can be simplified as in Fig. 14. This regulation is expressed by [30], [31]

$$V_{i(\text{DC})} = V_{Gi(\text{DC})} = V_{0i(\text{DC})} - R_{vi(\text{DC})} I_{Gi(\text{DC})} \quad (26)$$

where $V_{Gi(\text{DC})}$ is the output voltage to DC source which is also the bus voltage in bus i , $V_{0i(\text{DC})}$ the nominal voltage, $I_{Gi(\text{DC})}$ the output current, and $R_{vi(\text{DC})}$ the virtual resistance in the dispatchable DG unit i . $I_{Gi(\text{DC})}$ can be written as,

$$I_{Gi(\text{DC})} = \frac{P_{Gi(\text{DC})}}{V_{i(\text{DC})}} \quad (27)$$

where $P_{Gi(\text{DC})}$ is the power generated by unit i .

The network of DC microgrids can be taken as pure resistive in the steady state model. According to the Kirchhoff's current law, the network equation for both types of buses can then be written as follows:

$$I_{i(\text{DC})} = \sum_{j=1, j \neq i}^n Y_{ij(\text{DC})} (V_{i(\text{DC})} - V_{j(\text{DC})}) \quad (28)$$

where $I_{i(\text{DC})}$ is the DC injection current in bus i , $Y_{ij(\text{DC})}$ is the admittance between the bus i and bus j , and $V_{i(\text{DC})}$ is the voltage magnitude in bus i . In a unipolar DC microgrid, the injection power has the following relationship with injection current

$$P_{i(\text{DC})} = V_{i(\text{DC})} I_{i(\text{DC})} \quad (29)$$

Thus, network equation (29) can also be written as

$$P_{i(\text{DC})} = V_{i(\text{DC})} \sum_{j=1, j \neq i}^n Y_{ij(\text{DC})} (V_{i(\text{DC})} - V_{j(\text{DC})}) \quad (30)$$

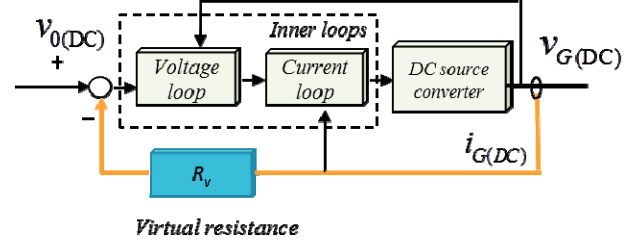


Fig. 13. Control diagram of the droop control in DC microgrids

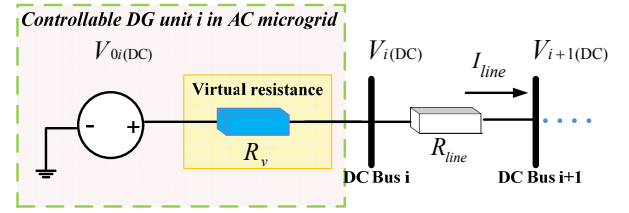


Fig. 14. Virtual resistance control concept in DC microgrids

For similarity, the non-dispatchable DG units can be taken as negative loads. Considering real power balance of the system, the whole mathematical model can be obtained as follows:

$$\begin{cases} F_{Vi(\text{DC})}(V_{i(\text{DC})}) = V_{0i(\text{DC})} - R_{vi(\text{DC})} \frac{P_{Gi(\text{DC})}}{V_{i(\text{DC})}} - V_{i(\text{DC})} = 0 \end{cases} \quad (31)$$

$$\begin{cases} F_{Pi(\text{DC})}(V_{i(\text{DC})}) = P_{Gi(\text{DC})} - P_{Di(\text{DC})} - P_{i(\text{DC})} = 0 \end{cases} \quad (32)$$

The number of total mismatch function is $N_{(\text{DC})}$ as expressed as in (31),

$$N_{(\text{DC})} = 2 \times N_{g(\text{DC})} + N_{p(\text{DC})} \quad (33)$$

where $N_{g(\text{DC})}$ is the number of dispatchable DG bus, and N_p is the number of P buses. The number of unknown variables is equal to the number of mismatch functions in this model. The unknown variables include the voltage of each bus and the power generated from each dispatchable DG unit. Therefore, the system can be solved by trust-region dogleg algorithm as that for AC microgrids.

V. CASE STUDIES FOR DC MICROGRIDS

In this section, case studies are conducted on a six-bus DC microgrid.

A. Algorithm Verification

Verification is made by comparing the calculation results with results from steady state time domain simulation. In DC microgrid with the same six-bus topology as in Fig. 4, three DC sources are controlled by droop controller through virtual impedance in bus 1, bus 2 and bus 3, and bus 4 to bus 6 are constant power load buses. System parameters are listed in the Table VI. This topology is chosen since it is easy to implement without loss of generality in the emerging DC distribution system.

TABLE VI.
SYSTEM PARAMETERS OF SIX-BUS DC MICROGRID

Parameters	Symbol	Value	Units
Control parameters			
Reference voltage in bus i , ($i=1, 2, 3$)	$V_{0i(DC)}$	380	V
Virtual resistance for DC source 1	R_{v1}	0.6	Ω
Virtual resistance for DC source 2	R_{v2}	0.5	Ω
Virtual resistance for DC source 3	R_{v3}	0.2	Ω
Line parameters			
Line resistance for line 1	R_{line_1}	0.2	Ω
Line resistance for line 2	R_{line_2}	0.4	Ω
Line resistance for line 3	R_{line_3}	0.3	Ω
Line resistance for line 4	R_{line_4}	0.25	Ω
Line resistance for line 5	R_{line_5}	0.2	Ω
Load parameters			
Bus number	Power(W)		
4	4500		
5	5700		
6	6350		

TABLE VII.
VALIDATION RESULTS OF THE SIX-BUS DC MICROGRID

SimPowerSystem Results			Power Flow Results	
No.	Mag.(p.u.)	Power(W)	Mag.(p.u.)	Power(W)
1	0.9765	4809.85	0.9796	4806.61
2	0.9816	4375.04	0.9846	4372.11
3	0.9864	7576.49	0.9894	7572.37
4	0.9697	4500*	0.9728	4500*
5	0.9692	5700*	0.9723	5700*
6	0.9704	6350*	0.9735	6350*

The comparison results are shown in Table VII. It shows that the maximum deviation of voltage amplitude to the simulation is less than 0.32%, and the maximum deviation of bus injection power is less than 0.67%. The good agreement between these two sets of results proves the effectiveness of the proposed power flow analysis for the DC microgrid.

To further indicate the improvement of the proposed algorithm, comparison with several conventional methods is also made. In this comparison study, all these four scenarios take bus 1 as the slack bus while bus 2 and 3 are set as the constant P buses. Since in the conventional method, power sharing is fixed in advance, load conditions in bus 2 and bus 3 are assumed as 60% and 10% in one of the scenarios and 10% and 60% in the other scenario. To show the effects of the value of flat voltage when running the traditional power flow, two different sets of flat voltage values in bus 1 are compared as well. The comparison between proposed and conventional power flow analysis are shown in Fig. 15. It can be seen that, in all these voltage profiles, the results calculated from the proposed algorithm match best the time domain simulation. Therefore, with the consideration of droop control in the proposed algorithm, more accurate power flow results can be obtained compared with those using conventional approaches with single slack bus in the model.

B. Control Parameter Analysis

With this droop control using virtual resistance, although parallel operation of the converters can be achieved, there is inherent load-dependent voltage deviation. With proposed

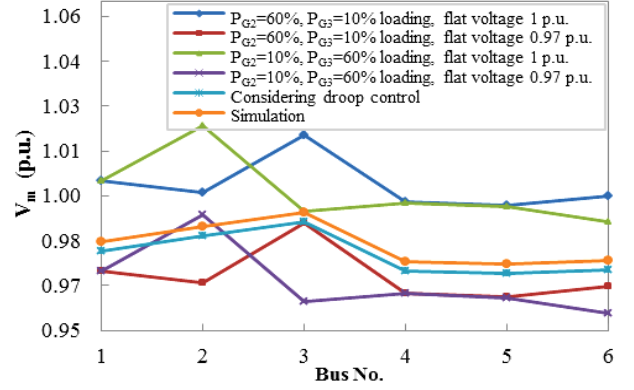


Fig. 15. Comparison of voltage profiles of the six-bus test system using different methods

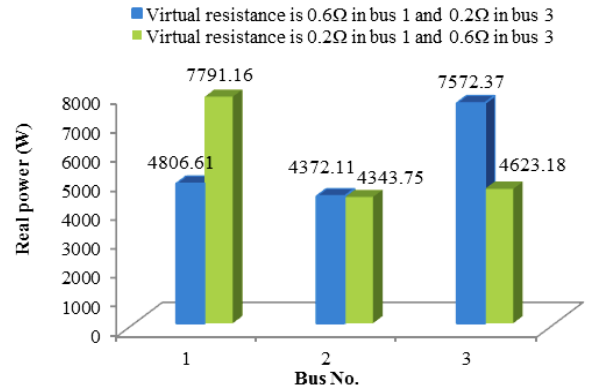


Fig. 16. Comparison of power sharing with different virtual resistances

power flow analysis, knowing the accurate power distribution and voltage profile beforehand under certain control parameters of dispatchable DG units becomes possible.

To analyse the effects of the droop gain on the power distribution, case studies of two scenarios with different droop gain values are carried out. The comparison result is shown in Fig. 16. In Case 1, R_{v1} is chosen as 0.6Ω and R_{v3} as 0.2Ω ; in Case 2, R_{v1} is chosen as 0.2Ω and R_{v3} as 0.6Ω . As can be seen from Fig. 16, the power can be controlled by the virtual impedance, i.e., it is roughly proportional to the reciprocal of the virtual resistance. The existence of the line impedance causes some deviation from the ideal load sharing.

VI. CONCLUSIONS

This paper has presented the formulation and implementation of power flow analyses for AC and DC microgrid in the LV network.

By considering the virtual impedance in both AC and DC microgrid, the proposed methods obtain more accurate calculate result for the power flow analyses. In the DC system, with proposed formulation, it realized the distributed slack buses which avoid the impractical single slack bus in the system formulation. In the AC system, with modelling the virtual impedance in the power flow formulation, calculation accuracy is improved compared with those using traditional methods. The improvement is especially remarkable for the reactive power. This feature can be more attractive, if in the future reactive power will participate in the electricity market.

Comparing with the method considering only the droop control, the improvement is not with a high cost—the computation overhead only increased slightly.

By virtue of the proposed method, with more detailed control parameters modelled, more detailed parameter analysis can be conducted by proposed power flow analyses. This will contribute to the system operation and optimization with higher accuracy.

APPENDIX

Table VIII shows the network data of the 38-bus system in Section III.

TABLE VIII.
NETWORK PARAMETERS OF 38-BUS SYSTEM

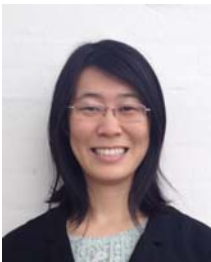
Line impedance in p.u.					Loads on to-node (p.u.)	
F	T	R p.u.	X p.u.	S _L	P	Q
1	2	0.000574	0.000293	0.5	0.1	0.6
2	3	0.00307	0.001564	2	0.09	0.04
3	4	0.002279	0.001161	0.5	0.12	0.08
4	5	0.002373	0.001209	1	0.06	0.03
5	6	0.0051	0.004402	1	0.06	0.02
6	7	0.001166	0.003853	3	0.2	0.1
7	8	0.00443	0.001464	3	0.2	0.1
8	9	0.006413	0.004608	2	0.06	0.02
9	10	0.006501	0.004608	1.5	0.06	0.02
10	11	0.001224	0.000405	1.5	0.045	0.03
11	12	0.002331	0.000771	1.5	0.06	0.035
12	13	0.009141	0.007192	0.5	0.06	0.035
13	14	0.003372	0.004439	0.5	0.12	0.08
14	15	0.00368	0.003275	0.5	0.06	0.01
15	16	0.004647	0.003394	1	0.06	0.02
16	17	0.008026	0.010716	1	0.06	0.02
17	18	0.004558	0.003574	1	0.09	0.04
2	19	0.001021	0.000974	0.5	0.09	0.04
19	20	0.009366	0.00844	0.5	0.09	0.04
20	21	0.00255	0.002979	0.5	0.09	0.04
21	22	0.004414	0.005836	0.5	0.09	0.04
3	23	0.002809	0.00192	1	0.09	0.05
23	24	0.005592	0.004415	1	0.42	0.2
24	25	0.005579	0.004366	1.5	0.42	0.2
6	26	0.001264	0.000644	1.5	0.06	0.025
26	27	0.00177	0.000901	1.5	0.06	0.025
27	28	0.006594	0.005814	1.5	0.06	0.02
28	29	0.005007	0.004362	1.5	0.12	0.07
29	30	0.00316	0.00161	1.5	0.2	0.6
30	31	0.006067	0.005996	0.5	0.15	0.07
31	32	0.001933	0.002253	0.5	0.21	0.1
32	33	0.002123	0.003301	1	0.06	0.04
8	34	0.012453	0.012453	1.5	0	0
9	35	0.012453	0.012453	1	0	0
12	36	0.012453	0.012453	1.5	0	0
18	37	0.003113	0.003113	1	0	0
25	38	0.003113	0.003113	2	0	0

F=From node, T=To node, S_L=Line capacity limit in p.u.,
P=Real load in p.u., Q=Reactive load in p.u.

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